



ROBIN J. VOS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • RACINE COUNTY

Testimony on 2009 Assembly Bill 192
Battery to a highway construction or maintenance worker
Rep. Robin Vos
April 16, 2009

Dear Chairman Turner and members of the Assembly Criminal Justice Committee:

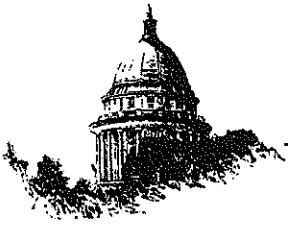
Thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 192 in such a timely manner. I greatly appreciate your attention to this legislation.

Sen. John Lehman and I have introduced this bill and its companion (SB 101) on behalf of the Town of Norway located in our legislative districts. Last Christmas Eve one of the town's snow plow drivers was beaten by a citizen when the driver asked him to move his parked vehicle or get a ticket. As the town began to examine this situation it was discovered that current law allows felony charges for battery of certain public agents (including an operator of a public transit vehicle), emergency care providers and government officials and employees, but not highway workers.

AB 192 makes this change by including felony battery charges for anyone who is working to construct, repair, or maintain a highway. A person who causes such bodily harm would be guilty of a Class I felony which is a fine of not more than \$10,000, imprisonment for not more than three years and six months, or both.

Highway workers play a valuable role in keeping our state and local infrastructure safe and sound. They deserve the added protection afforded their counterparts.

Again, thank you for your consideration of AB 192 and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.



Wisconsin State Senate

John Lehman

Senator — 21st District

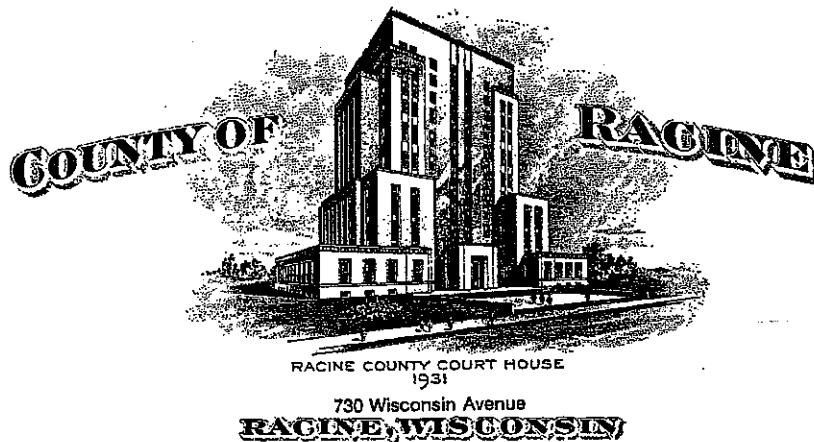
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**Testimony of State Sen. John Lehman
Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice
Assembly Bill 192
April 16, 2009**

Representative Robin Vos and I have introduced Assembly Bill 192 (and Senate Bill 101) which make bring battery of a Wisconsin highway worker a class I felony.

This past Christmas Eve, a snow plow driver and constituent in the Town of Norway was beaten by a man after he requested that he move his car. The plow driver was hospitalized as a result of his injuries.

AB 192 would provide the same penalty for battery of Wisconsin highway workers as is provided for battery of school district employees and public transit workers. Plow drivers and other highway workers work hard to keep our streets safe for us. We as legislators should try to do the same for them.



COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WILLIAM L. McREYNOLDS

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April 14, 2009

Representative Robert Turner
Chair, Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice
Room 223 North, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Re: Assembly Bill 192

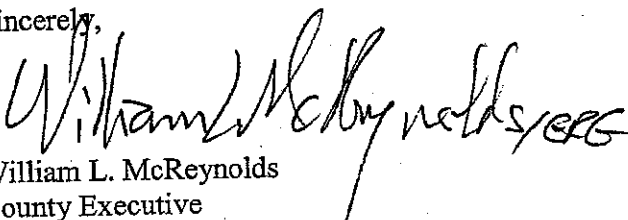
Dear Chairman Turner:

I am writing in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 192, which would make a battery to a highway construction or maintenance worker a Class I felony. I want to thank you, as well as Representative Vos, Representative Kerkman, and Senator Lehman, for introducing this important legislation.

Highway construction and maintenance is one of the principal responsibilities of Wisconsin local governments. Well maintained roads are essential to economic activity, community quality of life, and, above all, public safety. Local government employees and employees of contractors who perform road construction and maintenance should not have to worry that they will be subjected to violence while engaged in this vital work. They need the special protection that AB 192 will afford them.

Especially at a time of increased highway construction and maintenance, this bill will help protect our highway workers from persons who would harm them and, by doing so, would harm all of us. I urge your committee to take quick, positive action on it.

Sincerely,


William L. McReynolds
County Executive

Copies to: Racine County Legislative Delegation
Jean Jacobson, Norway Town Chair